GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1727
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2002
DISPLAY OF BANNED MOVIES ON CHANNELS
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that several movies which have been banned in India are being freely telecast by foreign and Indian Channels as reported in `The Statesman` dated August 13, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take action against such channels which have telecast such banned movies;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check telecasting of such banned movies in future?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

(SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (d): Government`s attention has been drawn to the report in the Statesman dated 13th August 2002. Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) certifies films for public exhibition in India.There is no provision to ban a film under the Cinematograph Act, 1952, but a film can be refused a certificate.

Doordarshan telecasts only such films which are certified `U` by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) and prior to their telecast they are previewed by a Committee to ensure their suitability for family viewing.

The Cable Television Network Regulation Act, 1995 and rules framed there-under prohibit carriage of any programme in the Cable Service, which contravenes the provisions of the Cinematograph Act,1952 or is not suitable for unrestricted public exhibition, as defined in the Cinematograph Act 1952. The legal position on the issue of pre-certification of films telecast on Television channels, is being examined by this Ministry in consultation with the Ministry of Law.